

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) A Method-method of treatment of an animal, comprising administering a therapeutic or diagnostic composition comprising particles of a polymer matrix into which is absorbed aqueous liquid, the particles having diameters in the range 40 to 4000 μm , characterized in that surfaces of the particles express a zwitterionic group, in which a composition according to claim 1 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis, wherein the diameters of the particles, when fully imbibed with water, are in the range 150 μm to 3000 μm .

52. (Currently Amended) The Method-method according to claim 51 in which the composition is administered to form an embolus.

53. (Currently Amended) Method-The method according to claim 52 in which the composition is administered for uterine fibroid ~~embolisation, embolisation~~embolization, embolization of vessels around tumours or tumour-excision sites, ~~embolisation-embolization~~ of varicose veins or varicoceles, ~~embolisation-embolization~~ of arteriovenous malformations or venous malformations, hemostasis of gastro-intestinal bleeds, ~~embolisation-embolization~~ of fistulas or ~~embolisation-embolization~~ of fallopian tubes, or seminiferous tubes for ~~sterilisation~~ sterilization purposes.

54-69. (Cancelled).

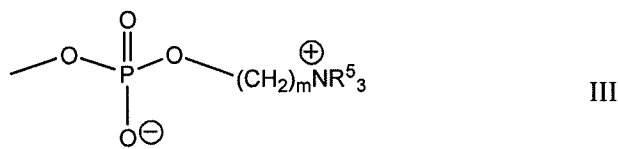
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 10/528,829 (Q86429)

70. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 2 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~claim 51,
wherein the polymer matrix is substantially non-biodegradable.

71. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 34 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~claim 51,
wherein the composition is sterile.

72. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 35 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,
wherein the zwitterionic group comprises ammonium, phosphonium, or sulphonium and
phosphate or phosphonate ester.

73. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 36 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,
wherein the zwitterionic group has general formula III

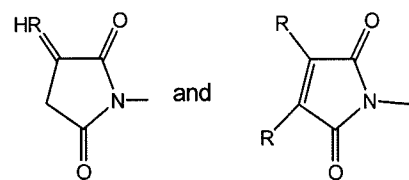


where the groups R⁵ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C1-4 alkyl, and m is
from 1 to 4.

74. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 37 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,
wherein the zwitterionic groups are pendant groups on a polymer formed from ethylenically
unsaturated monomers including a monomer of the general formula I



in which Y is an ethylenically unsaturated group selected from the group consisting of $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{A}-$, $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{A}^1-$, $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CH}_2\text{A}^2$, $\text{R}^2\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{CR}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{O}$, $\text{RCH}=\text{CH}-\text{CO}-\text{O}$, $\text{RCH}=\text{C}(\text{COOR}^2)\text{CH}_2-\text{CO}-\text{O}$,



A is $-\text{O}-$ or NR^1 ;

A^1 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{A}^2$ and $(\text{CH}_2)_l\text{SO}_3-$ in which l is 1 to 12;

A^2 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $-\text{O}-$, $\text{O}-\text{CO}-$, $\text{CO}-\text{O}$, $\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-$, $-\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}$, $\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^1-$, $\text{NR}^1-\text{CO}-\text{O}$;

R is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or BX ;

R^2 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

B is a bond, or a straight branched alkanediyl, alkylene oxaalkylene, or alkylene (oligooxalkylene) group, optionally containing one or more fluorine substituents;

X is the zwitterionic group.

75. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 38 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~74 in which Y is $\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{CR}-\text{CO}-\text{A}$.

76. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 47 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 10/528,829 (Q86429)

wherein the particles, when imbibed with physiological saline at room temperature, have a water content of at least 30% by weight.

77. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 48 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,
wherein the particles are substantially spherical.

78. (Cancelled).